Translation

Foreign Office

Political and Diplomatic Division

Number eighty-nine.

Most Illustrious Sir,

To-day I had a conference with the Count of Florida's brevice, and he presented to me the Treaty that he had made, on the ground that he could not sign what represented the frontier as rivers that were not on his map, which omitted the cession of the two banks of the River Amazon as unlimited, and that the promise of the Treaties should be omitted, reserving it for Secret Articles, seeking to do a work decorous for both.
...both Monarchies; which he taught
he had accomplished, and that at least nothing
had that idea, and would not relinquish
it. I read the said Treaty in his
presence, and indicated to him what
I found required correction, which
he promptly corrected; in the River,
however, if the first division of the line,
he named all those which he had in
his map, and it was not possible to
convince him as to the others, for
these absolutely were mine, nor do
I think it would be important, sav-
ing with the condition that the line
should pass through the head-points
of those that flow into the respective
Dominions. In the addition which he
made to the Article of the Island of
Santa Catharina, and the form
in
in which it is drawn up, he said that for the dignity of both Crowns, he had always written down equal concessions on each side, and he had deemed it was the only course Our Lady the Queen could take towards the English for them to refrain from going to the said island in time of war, for they, not having cooperated in its defence, nor in its restoration, could not complain that it should be so stipulated.

We passed on to the Secret Articles, and as what relates to Conditions 2 and 4 altered, he declared that from the time when the Treaty of One thousand seven hundred and fifty had been signed he had always heard the idea ridiculed that there could be war in one part and not in the other, that this game...
thing he had always understood, that on making the peace now, war should in process be thought of, more especially when it was considered that by it the obligation of previous treaties would become void, and that thus he had written as was decent and just. I then asked him, supposing those alterations made which he would not forgo, to grant the permit for the horses, and that I would at once send a Courier who should start to-day and return, with the utmost speed, with the answer; he replied in the affirmative, but that I must despatch him with the sooner, standing that the King would not change.
change his mind, and that he was only prepared to make in the Secret Articles any declaration which Your Excellency might deem necessary for the better and prompter execution of the Treaty, and that, in the belief that there could be no alteration in the same, the translating and writing should be proceeded with, and that Your Excellency in conformity with this would order the ratification of the said Treaty, and of the Secret Articles, with the declaration you might think fit or absolutely necessary, that the proper date might be put to the Treaty, and that on the same day that it was signed the ratifications should be exchanged in order thus...
to gain the necessary time, and that Your Eccelleny should issue the orders for its execution as you pleased, for he would give his own, open, and in due conformity; and that the particular should come for the delivering up of the Islands of Anno Born and of Fernan. do Fo, with the circumstances of their being secret, and to give them from the Islands jail, Town and Principle, the aid necessary for their establishment on this principle. He afterwards complained to me bitterly that they had not spoken to him with sincerity, when the same article of promise of Alliance was made.
made with the idea of never concluding it, that leaving the time undecided for the beginning of this Treaty, at the will of His Catholic Majesty it was said that it should be concluded as soon as possible, which was equivalent to its never being concluded, and for this reason the word promote was substituted as much more decorous. He likewise complained to me that the Vice-roy of Brazil should have delayed the parcels that, under a safe-conduct went to take the officers as prisoners from Rio de Janeiro, which was contrary to every right and practice, in such cases founded on sound reason and reciprocal convenience.

That the King had done all that could
could be expected of the more generous monarch and greatest friend, that he might have acted that, in order to enter into negotiations every thing should be restored to its former state, that he might have availed himself of the conquest he made, to improve his affairs; that he had done nothing of the kind; that he requested that the mail might not be delayed like the others, to come afterwards with alterations to which he could not agree, giving time for intelligence to arise of attacks from the Rio Grande, which might make him alter his opinions. This, in brief, is the substance of lengthy conference, to which I can only add
The treaty they made is the same as that of one thousand seven hundred and fifty, that your Excellency showed that you transmitted to me, that of the King's repugnance for the same, they had made miracles; that this Treaty has no other difference than the loss of the villages or edifices of Uruguay, which loss is most insignificant, on account of the bad land of which they are composed, and of the difficulties and expenses they would entail to reduce the Indians.
supported, offense; and in time of war
if we be not neutral, the whole of
Brazil is a Colony on just principles,
for the Spaniards will go to seek
what they require wherever they may
find it. We regulate all our Affairs,
we turn to account the fertile plains
of Rio Grande, which, if well governed,
will be much more valuable even
than the principal Ports of Brazil;
and finally, we at once put an end
to the name of occupation, which
caused back the Settlements to obscure
times, the remembrance of which
will ever be painful. Your Majesty
shall decide as you please respecting
the Royal Service. I only venture
to beg of you, all I desire of you,
that you will be good enough to grant
me
and that if one should be taken ill, the other should take his despatches and proceed. I made no objection, whatever; and the same eminent tells me by the King's order that he despatched him to act, that the conclusion of the Negotiation should be hastened, and that in Your Excellency agreeing to order the two ratifications, which must be separately one for the Treaty, and the other for the Secret Articles; that this day's date should be put here upon the said Treaty and Secret Articles. I remind Your Excellency that, supposing the Secret to be kept regarding the Treaty of Commerce, another Plenipotentiary will be necessary, because the one Your Excellency sent one speaks of the said Treaty of Commerce.
The Duke of Legazpi afterwards
told me the King had told him
that he had proposed a means
of at once ordering the ratification,
in order thus to avoid the delay
it would cause to wait for its
afterwards, owing to the necessity
there was for despatching the
orders to America. If His Exa-
Jesty will deign to comply with
this desire for celerity, which the
King proposes, Your Excellency
may be perfectly assured that
the said ratifications will only
dere for the signature of what
Your Excellency commands,
approved by the Lady herself.

Your Excellency will please
not wonder that the quills which
and
are going about hear the French names first, because they are your own copies, and there was no time to translate ours; they will go written in person or order. Your Excellency will decide as you please. God preserve Your Excellency for many years to come.

Sir. Ildefonso, the tenth of September, One thousand seven hundred and seventy seven.

Illust: Senado Ayres de Sa. e Veijo
D. Francisco Inocêncio de Souza

Continka

Documents enclosed in this despatch.

Sir. The pincers desire on the part of your Royal Master, the King, to settle and conclude the preliminaries of the Treaty on the Boundaries of South America, and to secure peace
peace and perpetual union between
both crowns have led. It shall
the great advantages which the success
of his arms in those Regions should
accord for him, founded on the just
rights which he believes he possesses,
and to confine the public and peace
Articles of the reciprocal Repudiation
of the differences of both Courts
to the precise terms which I have
this day communicated to Senior
Dons, Francis, ensigning deluge
Continuo, and of which that ambas-
sador gives an account to Your
Excellency, setting forth to the Empire
which he addresses the final deter-
minations of the King in the prompt
and categorical reply of that Court
conforming to them, the positive
conception
conception that H. M. must form as to whether there may be, or not, some occult hand that is endeavouring with success to frustrate our good and pacific intentions. The unambitious ideas of my Royal Master, his love of peace, that which he professes towards his niece, Her Most Faithful Allegiance the Queen, the tenderness he owes to the Queen's brother, the sister of H. M., and the mediatrix in the disagreements between the two crown the commendable character of Your Excellency, who esteem H. M. so much, and the sincere wishes with which on my part, I long for the prompt and happy conclusion of matters of such gravity, should promise us the successful issue of my negociating but I confess to Your Excellency that,
I entertain many fears respecting its being in any power to refrain from interesting to Your Excellence that if these
suffer delays, as in the past, or should arrive accompanied by
the difficulties which hitherto have deferred and prevented the
settlement, I do not know what there will be which may arise
after the return of the Couriers that I despatch to-day with no other
object than that of transmitting to Your Excellence this letter.
I beg Your Excellence to regard this ingenuous statement which
I write to you respecting the critical situation in which the important affairs stand, which our August Sovereigns have entrusted to us, as the greatest proof of my desire that our endeavors may not fail, nor the happy opportunity of uniting forever Spain and Portugal by terminating the old and obstinate contests which were carried on by one Power against the other, and Your Excellency may be persuaded of the due appreciation I have for your person, and for your word as my good law, and of my obedience to your precepts. God preserve Your Excellency for many years as I desire.

St. Ildefons, 10 September 1771.

Your most obedient servant, The Count of Florida Blanco. Yours truly.

Handwritten
There follows a document in the same handwriting as the foregoing letter signed by the Count of Floria Branca. In Article 9, where it says according to the spirit of the Treaty of 1756, in Articles V, VI, VII and VIII, it ought to say the following, to avoid doubts in the execution: According to the spirit of the Treaty of 1756 and the letter of Articles V, VI, VII and VIII of it, so long as they are not opposed to what is agreed to in the present preliminary Treaty.

Copy of the separate and secret Article that came from Lisbon. His Catholic Majesty by his Royal and generous magnanimity and
and in prospect of the cession which Her Most Faithful Majesty his Niece in Articles Seventh and Eighth of the Preliminary Treaty of this same day's date relative to the Islands of Ann-Bom and Fernandes Po' with the safe entrance of the Spanish vessels into the Islands of Principe and St. Thomas for the purpose of introducing and facilitating Spanish Commerce and Navigation on the Coast of Africa, it is convenient to the said Spanish Monarch, and he declares, in view of that referred to:

That the Line of Demarcation on the Portuguese and Spanish States of America shall run (next to the site of Aegosa, Merina, and Fort St. Goncalo, which is declared in Article 6 of the Preliminary Treaty) and
and shall be regulated by the same rules and principles which were established and stipulated in the Treaty of Madrid of the thirteenth of January, one thousand seven hundred and fifty.

The preceding Article will be ratified within the precise term of fifteen days or earlier if possible, and will form part of the Preliminary Treaty signed this day, as if it were therein included and written.

Correct and in conformity

Office of the Director General of political and diplomatic affairs at the Foreign Office, 23 February 1893

(Sealed) A. D'Orcellis

Director General